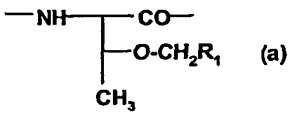
Claims

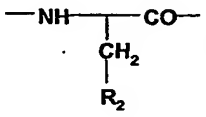
1. Microparticles comprising a somatostatin analogue comprising the amino acid sequence of formula I

-(D/L)Trp-LYs-X_1 -X_2 - I

wherein X_1 is a radical of formula (a) or (b)



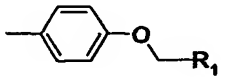
(a)



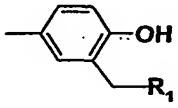
(b)

wherein R_1 is optionally substituted phenyl,

R_2 is $-Z_1-CH_2-R_1$, $-CH_2-CO-O-CH_2-R_1$,



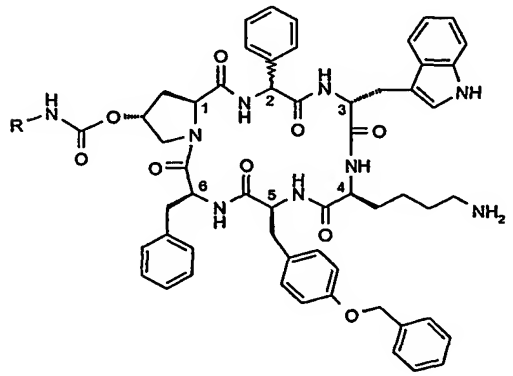
or



wherein Z_1 is O or S, and

X_2 is an α-amino acid having an aromatic residue on the C_α side chain, or an amino acid unit selected from Dab, Dpr, Dpm, His, (Bzl)HyPro, thienyl-Ala, cyclohexyl-Ala and t-butyl-Ala, the residue Lys of said sequence corresponding to the residue Lys^9 of the native somatostatin-14
in free form, salt form, or protected form,
embedded in a polymer matrix.

2. Microparticles according to claim 1 wherein the somatostatin analogue is a compound of formula III



III

wherein the configuration at C-2 is (R) or (S) or a mixture thereof, and

wherein R is NR_1R_2-C_{2-6}alkylene or guanidine-C_{2-6}alkylene, and each of R_1 and R_2 independently is H or C_{1-4}alkyl,
in free form, salt form or protected form.

3. Microparticles according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the somatostatin analogue is in pamoate salt form.

4. Microparticles according to any preceding claim wherein the polymer matrix comprises a linear or branched polylactide-co-glycolide.

5. Microparticles according to any preceding claim wherein the polymeric matrix comprises at least two different polymers.

6. Microparticles according to any preceding claim further comprising a surfactant, a porosity influencing agent and/or a basic salt.

7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising microparticles of any preceding claim and a water-based vehicle comprising a wetting agent.

8. A composition according to claim 7 wherein the wetting agent comprises a poloxamer and/or a polyoxyethylene-sorbitan-fatty acid ester.

9. A composition according to any one of claims 7 or 8 wherein the vehicle comprises a tonicity agent.

10. A composition according to any one of claims 7 or 8 wherein the vehicle comprises a viscosity increasing agent.

11. A kit comprising microparticles according to any one of claims 1 to 6 and a water-based vehicle.

12. Use of microparticles according to any one of claims 1 to 6 or of a pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 7 to 10 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of a disease or disorder with an aetiology comprising or associated with excess GH- and/or IGF-1 secretion.

13. A method of treating a disease or disorder with an aetiology comprising or associated with excess GH- and/or IGF-1 secretion in a subject in need thereof which comprises administering microparticles according to any one of claims 1 to 6 or of a pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 7 to 10 to the subject.